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UX Report: DataONE Search User Profile User-Experience Test Results

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DataONE Search User Profile User-Experience Test Results
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December 10, 2015

DataONE Usability and Assessment Working Group conducted a usability study of the DataONE Search User Profile. This report discusses the findings.

METHODOLOGY

Testing was conducted December 7-10th 2015. Testing was completed through remote usability testing and through an online survey. Participants were recruited through the Member Node Forum and the DataONE Scientist Panel. An e-mail invitation was sent to both groups on December 2nd asking them to participate in a remote usability test through Webex. Only three users responded. In order to garner more user feedback, a Qualtrics online survey was created and distributed through the Member Node Forum e-mail list and to the scientist panel. Four users completed the online survey.

In the remote usability test, participants were shown five mock-ups of the DataONE Search user profile (member node profile, group profile, individual profile, blank/empty profile, and identification code page). Participants were asked for insights into the profile's design, layout, and content, including anything they did not understand or anything they felt was missing. The images used during testing are included at the end of the report. The usability test took an average of 20 minutes.

In the online survey participants were shown the five user profile pages and asked to provide feedback, including first impressions, if there was anything they did not understand, or anything they thought was missing.

TEST RESULTS

Member Node User Profile

Overall, participants thought the layout was simple, easy to understand, and intuitive. They liked that there was a short summary of Dryad on the page, since not all users knew much (or anything) about Dryad. They would also like to be able to find additional information about the Member Node. The user profile could be linked to the Member Node Dashboard.

Participants pointed out that there is no heading or description that describes the content of the page. It is not necessarily obvious that the user is looking at the Dryad data holdings. This issue may be cleared up by how the user accesses the page, but it may be helpful to include a heading for the user profile pages.

Another issue that users pointed out was the vertical layout of the page. It is not obvious that there is any information below the fold. The only item that is shown above the fold is the dataset list. It would be helpful if there was some indication of the content below the fold. Again, this may be more obvious depending on how the user accesses the page and if there is a heading for user profiles.

Group User Profile

As with the Member Node profile, participants liked the clean layout. They thought the Download and Upload statistics were helpful. They wondered when and how often the statistics were updated. They would like to see a date so they could know currency.

It was not always clear to users what they were seeing in the group page. They were confused about if group datasets could only come from one member node or could there be multiple member node contributors. It was also unclear how the group related to the datasets since the author/owner of the dataset is not a group member. If only members of the group can see the page, there should not be any issues, but if the group profile is searchable it may be nice to include a short description/summary of the group (like with Member Nodes) to help clarify the content.

Individual User Profile

Participants liked the layout. They thought adding a picture or avatar to the individual profile could be helpful, mimicking other social media/online pages.

They liked the idea of being able to share e-mail address or contact information (including associations); however, they pointed out that many scientists change jobs frequently and the contact information could be outdated. Contact information could be tied to Orcid or other sign-in information.

All participants thought the user profile should be public. They thought a public profile was a part of sharing data and having a profile could help improve visibility while helping users determine the quality of a data package. If the data owner/lead author is not the uploader, there could be a mechanism in place that sends a notification to the author when a data set is submitted.

Participants liked the file format and time period statistics. They liked the idea of being able to click on one of those charts to filter the author's data sets.

Empty User Profile

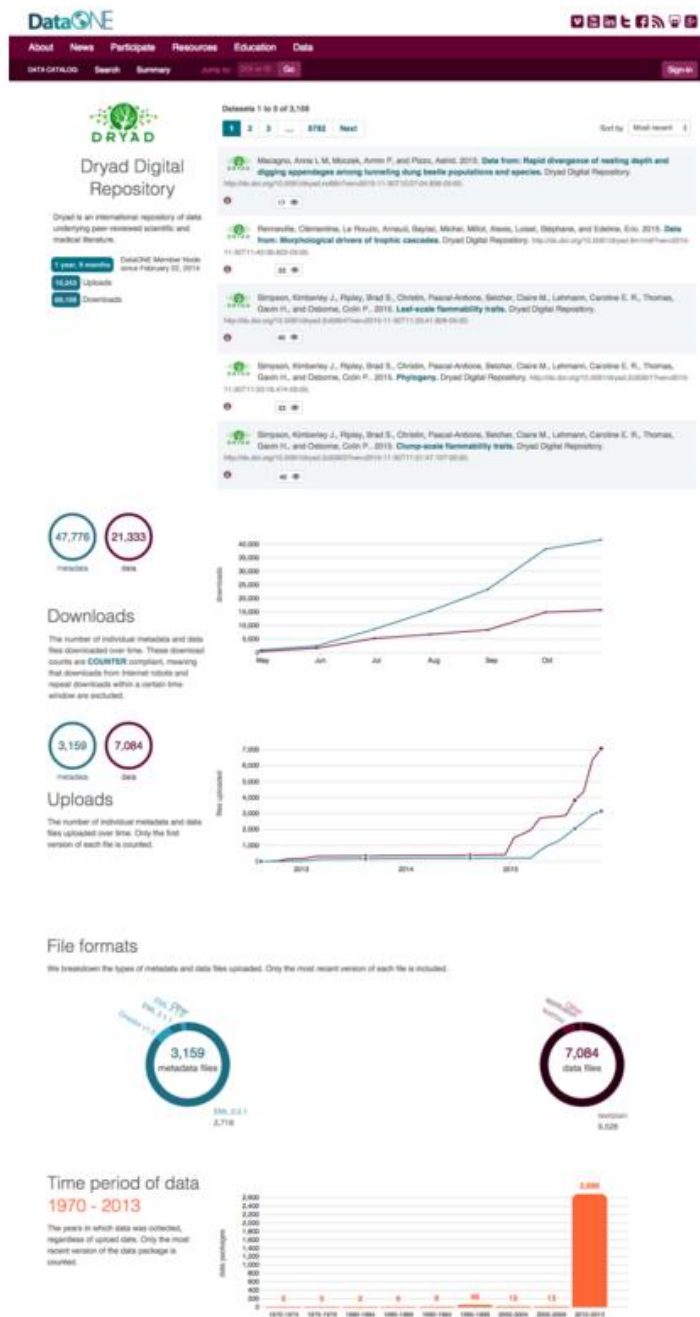
Participants thought the grayed out images was unnecessary. They would keep the short description ("Lauren Walker hasn't uploaded anything yet.") and remove everything else.

Identification Code Page

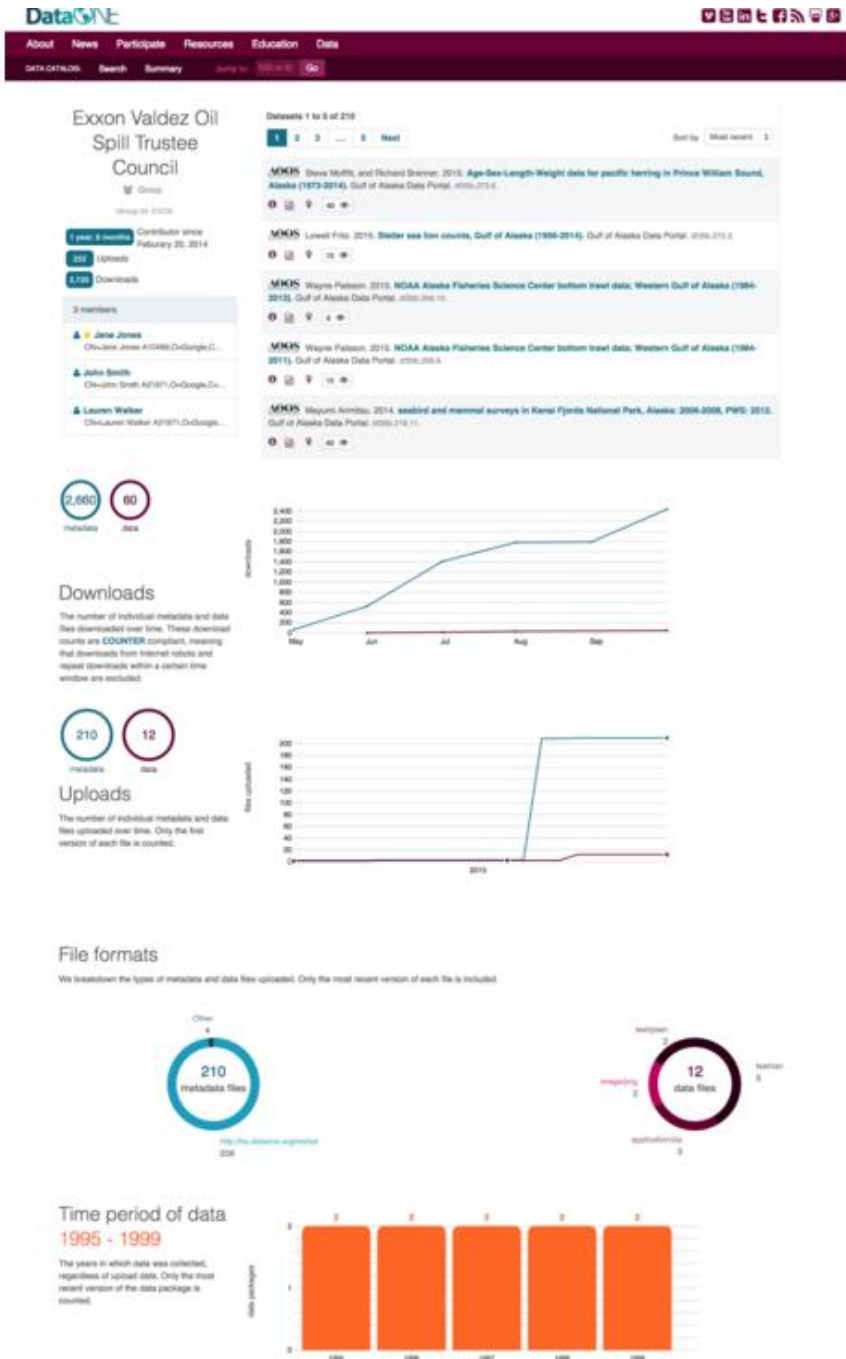
Participants thought the page was easy to understand. They would like to see documentation about how to use the code/token. If there were other methods beside R and MatLab to use the code/token, they would like to be more obvious on the page.

While the term "identification code" was understandable, participants liked the term "token". Six of the seven participants preferred "authentication token."

Member Node User Profile



Group User Profile



Individual User Profile



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Empty User Profile

The screenshot shows the DataONE website interface for a user named Lauren Walker. The user's profile is empty, with zero uploads, downloads, and file formats. The interface includes a navigation bar with links to About, News, Participate, Resources, Education, and Data. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for My Data and Settings. The main content area displays the user's name, a bio, and a message indicating that no data has been uploaded yet. There are also sections for Downloads, Uploads, File formats, and Time period of data, all showing zero counts.

DataONE

About News Participate Resources Education Data

DATA CATALOG Search Summary Jump to: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 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Identification Code




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DATA CATALOG:
Lauren Walker A10480 

My Account

My identification code

Use your DataONE identification code to upload data

Your identification code is a unique string of characters that identifies a person submitting, updating, or accessing data. Copy/paste your identification code into an application that supports DataONE to manage your account.

Please be careful to safeguard this code. Anyone with access to it can access content in DataONE as you. Be careful to not add this code to any published scripts or documents. This code will expire after a certain time period after which you will need to get a new one here.

Copy your identification code:

[illegible]

Copy

Applications that support DataONE Identification codes

To upload data in the DataONE network: choose a Member Node to host your data and an app that supports DataONE.

[See the list of DataONE Member Nodes >](#)



DataONE R

The DataONE client for R has plans to use DataONE tokens in its 2.0 release. [Learn more about DataONE R](#) »



Matlab DataONE Toolbox

Coming soon

A Matlab Toolbox that provides functions to interact with data repositories that implement the DataONE service API. The toolbox also includes client-side functions for managing provenance (the history) of derived data products. [Learn more »](#)

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